

Travel Report for United Tribes Meeting 7-26/7-27-2011
Belinda Bardwell
Tribal Council

NACA (Native American Contractors Association) Training

8 am – 4 pm

Many different presentations were giving this afternoon and all of them were very informative concerning our Tribes endeavors in obtaining 8a Contracts. Also in attendance for this training were Frank Ettawageshik and Jerry Chingwa.

1) Tony Franco, Senior Partner, Piliero Mazza, PLLC

Filling out an 8a application and the process involved. His firm assists tribes in this process and offered many different suggestions, tips and pit falls. This is a long process and can take up to several months to years depending on what contract they are looking for. My notes taken and copy of his power point presentation included within this report.

2) Danelle Smith, Partner, Fredrick Peebles & Morgan, LLP

Creating a Successful Corporate Structure. Presentation included the many different ways one tribe/company can set up its structure to best capture government contracts. The most advantages way is to create a Corporation under Tribal Law. This corp. needs to be For Profit in order to be considered for an 8a contract. It was also suggested to create a holding company with multiple subsidiaries. She also spoke about what our Tribe is trying to obtain, which is a partnership with other, already created companies/Tribes in order to obtain these contracts. Tribes must also waive their sovereign immunity, but she did go into a little bit about how a Tribe can preserve the immunity. Notes also included with a copy of her presentation.

3) Thomas Vargo, U.S Small Business Administration

He states that the Government has enacted legislation for 23% of their business is to be done with small disadvantaged business within the USA. As he was speaking I was thinking that why couldn't our casino create something like this, that we would do a small percentage of our business for goods and services with other Native owned companies. I have been researching this topic a bit and have talked with Native owned business on how they would be able to compete, price wise, with non-Native, bigger corporations.

Thomas did mention that he could offer some assistance with Tribes in filling out an application, but my feeling was that he had little experience with working with Tribes. The first presenter, Tony Franco and his firm specializes in assisting Tribal entities in the application process...but at a large price tag.

4) Janice Hotch, Manager of Office of Diversity Solutions, Sealaska

Victoria Kitcheyan, Office Manager, All Native Managed Services

Went through many of their success stories of their business in Alaska and went over their structure within the state of Alaska. Ho-Chunk Nation has created a working Village within their reservation including many Native owned business using much of the profits made from their 8a contracts. Contained within her presentation is a slide outlining all of their created corporations and businesses. They have a very impressive outline.

United Tribes Meeting Notes:

Welcome Reception: 6:00 PM

With a presentation from a representative from the Kellogg Foundation wanting to work with Tribes in obtaining information to be used for their grant program for healthy children, birth to age 8.

Wednesday Morning

Call to order: 8:25 AM

Executive Directors Report:

- Attended the “Honoring The Waters: Indigenous Leaders Water Forum”
- Attended the GTB sponsored “Flow For Water”
- He was asked to testify on climate issues and water issues
- Attended MAST in DC
 - Congressmen Ben Ray Lujan attended and spoke
- NCAI, tribal leader conference calls
- Climate change webinars
 - Dealing with various eco topics and emergency plan
- **Eagle Feather work group update**
 - Potentially a big issue in Indian Country, Federal agents at NCAI presented and it created a very heated debate/workshop
 - Natural Resources Dept-combing permit for eagle feather with enrollment cards

Legal Update from Jessica Franklin from Godfrey & Kahn

- Emphasis on environmental issues concerning mining on/near reservations
- Federal Law-allows Tribes to participate and repeal any mining action that has any effect on/around reservations air quality, grants are available.

National Health Board

- Wants financial support
- Received a hand out on Tribal Planning Health Insurance Exchange (included)
- There is a need for Tribal leaders to bring issues forth from Federal Government as states are not required to consult w/ Tribes

2014 the Exchange will be up and running, requesting Healthcare workers to work w/ exchange creators

Update from Melissa Claramunt from MDCR

- Hate Crime Conference offered for free on 9-9-11 in Lansing
- Discussion on the fact that state funded universities are having to carry the burden of funding the MITW. Why is the state not funding that line item?
- MDCR was requesting the passing of resolution for , which United Tribes was unwilling to take action on today.
- Statistics for the MITW is included in packet

Adjournment 12:00pm

Lunch

Governors Tribal Summit held at 2:00pm

All Tribal leaders were able to address the governor on their specific topic, all taking turns. This new format was welcomed by some, but few. Most wanted to return next year to the original format that has been in place in the past. The meeting went very well and all Tribal leaders in attendance made very good points and brought Gov. Snyder's attention to some very important subject matter.